

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # \_\_\_\_\_

APP # 700026

### ITEM 1. Proposed Project

The Project areas includes public lands in the Tungsten Hills, White Mountains, Inyo Mountains, Alabama Hills and Volcanic Tableland. In these areas the biological, geological, cultural, and historic features, as well as nearby population centers, attract most motorized recreation use. Opportunity for these areas have advanced, intermediate and beginner motorcycle/ATV trails, 4x4 roads, hill climbs, SUV touring routes, scenic overlooks, fishing, hunting, and hiking, access. Landscape features for these areas are generally open desert scrub and piñon pine with little or no natural barriers to restrict motorized cross country travel. The five areas total 240,000 acres with one Wilderness, and one Open area. Additionally, eight Wilderness Study Areas are contained in the project areas. There are approximately 1,500 miles of roads and trails within the project areas.

"The area is managed for the full spectrum of uses. Emphasizing recreation and environmental education..." (Bishop RMP Record of Decision 1993, p43)

The OHV funds will accomplish the following Deliverables. The federal law enforcement officers (LEO) will enforce all OHV laws. The LEOs and park ranger will patrol all areas at a minimum of five days per week, with weekend and holidays a priority. The park ranger will install or maintain signs/kiosks, barricades or other traffic control devices, and perform outreach. The recreation planner will manage and administer the OHV program, identify OHV opportunity and needs, maintain interagency coordination, enhance public outreach, schedule patrol personnel training and re-certification, patrol, evaluate effectiveness of management actions, and ensure these deliverables are accomplished. Volunteer trail stewards will patrol up to 10,000 miles providing maps, rules & regulations, complimentary sound/spark arrestor checks, and reporting irresponsible OHV use. We will purchase educational materials, regulatory signs, calibrate the noise meter, maintain up to 5 BLM motorcycles used for patrol, pay volunteers for the use of their motorcycles during patrol, and purchase safety equipment for patrol personnel.

Law enforcement efforts are targeted to minimize or prevent impacts to natural and cultural resources by providing enforcement, as well as non-enforcement personnel, with information and maps of sensitive areas and significant cultural sites where OHV activity is likely to take place. These areas are included in the LEO's regular patrol route.

Bishop BLM conducts outreach programs including booths at public events (Tri-County Fair Labor Day weekend and the Mammoth Motocross, 3rd week in June) and is a certified partner with "Hands on the Land" a school program that connects America's students, teachers and parents to their public land. We are currently developing a Safety and Educational program to be conducted by our LEO's.

Conflicts between user groups in a dispersed, multiple-use setting are a concern. To reduce potential conflicts the Bishop BLM undertakes a number of measures. Patrol personnel, including volunteer Trail Rangers, make every effort to make positive face-to-face contacts with not only OHV enthusiasts but all visitors engaged in an activity on public lands. OHV use is a spectrum of uses, ranging from the vehicle operation as the major source of enjoyment, to the vehicle merely providing access to an area or related activity. With that in mind the Bishop BLM has developed several handouts, some general in nature and some site/activity specific. These handouts and maps are made available to visitors in the field, at our two Interagency Visitor Centers, five Chamber of Commerce locations, the Web, at the local motorcycle shops or by calling our office. The brochures contain tips on trail etiquette, maps with difficulty ratings, tips for driving off road, OHV safety information, emergency numbers, what to carry when going off road and information on where to find further information. (Can be view at office or Web). <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/bishop.html>

Agency patrol staff is trained to identify public safety hazards and to respond to emergencies. Staff training includes first responder, ATV Rider Safety, ATV Rider Safety Instructor, DMV Class M (motorcycle) license and (certified) noise testing and spark arrestor identification. Additionally, enforcement rangers attend an annual mandatory training in the enforcement of 43 CFR, including OHV laws and carry the Off-Highway Vehicle Law Enforcement Information booklet published by California State Parks. (Photocopies of training and certificates are included in the application)

Interpretive Signing on environmental ethics and OHV use can be found at the entrance portal to areas that tend to attract

OHV use. These are; the Tungsten Hills, Bodie Hills, Fish slough, Volcanic Tableland, Alabama Hills, Happy Boulders, Sad Boulders and at the two Interagency Visitor Centers.

**ITEM 2. Project Coverage**

The Project areas total 240,000 acres with one Wilderness, and one Open area. Additionally, eight Wilderness Study Areas are contained in the project areas. There are approximately 1,600 miles of roads and trails within the project areas.

**ITEM 3. Describe the frequency of the patrols**

Two Federal Law Enforcement officers patrol seven times a week with emphasis on weekends and holidays. In addition, recreation personnel and volunteer Trail Rangers provide visitor services weekends and holidays.

**ITEM 4. Deployment of Personnel**

Two.

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### Law Enforcement - Page 1

1. Identify areas with high priority law enforcement needs because of public safety, cultural resources, and sensitive environmental habitats, including wilderness areas and areas of critical environmental concerns:

Tungsten Hills, White Mountains, Inyo Mountains Wilderness, Alabama Hills and the Volcanic Tableland. These areas contain sensitive species and cultural sites; have designated Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas. Additionally, these areas provide for a wide variety of multiple uses where conflict between users has occurred.

2. Describe how the proposed Project relates to OHV Recreation and will sustain OHV Recreation, motorized off-highway access to non-motorized recreation, or OHV Opportunities associated with the Project Area:

The BLM Bishop OHV law enforcement program is a comprehensive plan that includes the enforcement of OHV laws along with educational outreach, visitor services, regulatory signing, spark arrestor / noise testing and informational booths at special events. Implementation of these activities protects the natural and visual resources, as well as provides public safety and reduces conflict between OHV visitors and other uses. This is an essential course of action to sustain OHV opportunity - because damaged lands and conflict is a valid reason to restrict OHV use.

3. Describe the Applicant's formal or informal cooperation with other law enforcement agencies:

OHV opportunity is spread over 710,000 acres with over 2,500 miles of routes and one Open area. To provide better enforcement patrols in this large geographical area the Bishop BLM has entered into joint agreements (MOUs) between the Bishop BLM, the Inyo National Forest and Bodie State Park. This allows law enforcement personnel to concurrently enforce OHV laws regardless of jurisdictional boundaries. Bishop BLM rangers not only meet regularly with these agencies but perform joint patrols. In addition to the above mentioned agencies, Bishop BLM regularly discusses OHV concerns with neighboring jurisdictions and issues joint OHV recreation commercial and organized event permits. These include the Ridgcrest BLM, Carson City BLM and Toiyabe National Forest.

### Law Enforcement - Page 2

4. Does the Applicant recover a portion of the law enforcement costs directly associated with privately sponsored OHV events where sponsors have obtained a local permit? ☒ Yes ☐ No  
(Please select Yes or No)

Explain

BLM Special Recreation Permits are subject to Cost Recovery and are explained in detail at the following link.  
<http://www.blm.gov/ca/dir/pdfs/2008/im/CAIM2008-001.pdf>

5. The Applicant agrees to implement a public education program that includes information on safety programs available in the area and how to report OHV violations? ☒ Yes ☐ No  
(Please select Yes or No)

6. Describe the Applicant's OHV law enforcement training program including how the training program educates personnel to address OHV safety and natural and cultural resource protection:

Agency patrol staff is trained to identify public safety hazards and to respond to emergencies. Staff training includes first responder; ATV Rider Safety; ATV Rider Safety Instructor; DMV Class M (motorcycle) license; sound testing and spark arrestor identification. LEOs work closely with BLM wildlife and archaeology personnel to address environmental and cultural resources that may be threatened by OHV use. Additionally, enforcement rangers attend an annual mandatory training in the enforcement of 43 CFR, including OHV laws and carry the Off-Highway Vehicle Law Enforcement Information booklet published by California State Parks.

### Law Enforcement - Page 3

7. Is the proposed project in accordance with local or federal plans and the OHMVR Division Strategic Plan? ☒ Yes ☐ No  
(Please select Yes or No)

8. LOCAL AGENCIES ONLY - Describe the Applicant's policies and/or agreements regarding enforcement on federal

land:

9. COUNTIES ONLY - Describe how the OHV in-lieu of tax funds are being used and whether the use of these fees complements the Applicant's project:

**Law Enforcement - Page 4**

10. APPLICANTS WHO MANAGE OHV RECREATION FACILITIES – Describe how your organization is meeting its operation and maintenance needs:

Operational and maintenance needs are funded by BLM. This includes trail maintenance, Kiosk and restroom facilities as well as trash removal.

11. The Applicant agrees to enforce the registration of OHVs and the other provision of Division 16.5 commencing with Section 38000 of the vehicle code and to enforce other applicable laws regarding the operation of OHVs? (Please select Yes or No) ☒ Yes ☐ No

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009  
 Agency: BLM - Bishop Field Office  
 Application: Law Enforcement

6/2/2009

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:		Version # _____	APP # _____
<b>APPLICANT NAME :</b>	BLM - Bishop Field Office		
<b>PROJECT TITLE :</b>	Law Enforcement	<b>PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :</b>	
<b>PROJECT TYPE :</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration		
<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION :</b>	<p>The Project areas includes public lands in the Tungsten Hills, White Mountains, Inyo Mountains, Alabama Hills and Volcanic Tableland. In these areas the biological, geological, cultural, and historic features, as well as nearby population centers, attract most motorized recreation use. Opportunity for these areas have advanced, intermediate and beginner motorcycle/ATV trails, 4x4 roads, hill climbs, SUV touring routes, scenic overlooks, fishing, hunting, and hiking, access. Landscape features for these areas are generally open desert scrub and piñon pine with little or no natural barriers to restrict motorized cross country travel. The five areas total 240,000 acres with one Wilderness, and one Open area. Additionally, eight Wilderness Study Areas are contained in the project areas. There are approximately 1,500 miles of roads and trails within the project areas.</p> <p>"The area is managed for the full spectrum of uses. Emphasizing recreation and environmental education..." (Bishop RMP Record of Decision 1993, p43)</p> <p>The OHV funds will accomplish the following Deliverables. The federal law enforcement officers (LEO) will enforce all OHV laws. The LEOs and park ranger will patrol all areas at a minimum of five days per week, with weekend and holidays a priority. The park ranger will install or maintain signs/kiosks, barricades or other traffic control devices, and perform outreach. The recreation planner will manage and administer the OHV program, identify OHV opportunity and needs, maintain interagency coordination, enhance public outreach, schedule patrol personnel training and re-certification, patrol, evaluate effectiveness of management actions, and ensure these deliverables are accomplished. Volunteer trail stewards will patrol up to 10,000 miles providing maps, rules &amp; regulations, complimentary sound/spark arrestor checks, and reporting irresponsible OHV use. We will purchase educational materials, regulatory signs, calibrate the noise meter, maintain up to 5 BLM motorcycles used for patrol, pay volunteers for the use of their motorcycles during patrol, and purchase safety equipment for patrol personnel.</p> <p>Law enforcement efforts are targeted to minimize or prevent impacts to natural and cultural resources by providing enforcement, as well as non-enforcement personnel, with information and maps of sensitive areas and significant cultural sites where OHV activity is likely to take place. These areas are included in the LEO's regular patrol route.</p> <p>Bishop BLM conducts outreach programs including booths at public events (Tri-County Fair Labor Day weekend and the Mammoth Motocross, 3rd week in June) and is a certified partner with "Hands on the Land" a school program that connects America's students, teachers and parents to their public land. We are currently developing a Safety and Educational program to be conducted by our LEO's.</p> <p>Conflicts between user groups in a dispersed, multiple-use setting are a concern. To reduce potential conflicts the Bishop BLM undertakes a number of measures. Patrol personnel, including volunteer Trail Rangers, make every effort to make positive face-to-face contacts with not only OHV enthusiasts but all visitors engaged in an activity on public lands. OHV use is a spectrum of uses, ranging from the vehicle operation as the major source of enjoyment, to the vehicle merely providing access to an area or related activity. With that in mind the Bishop BLM has developed several handouts, some general in nature and some site/activity specific. These handouts and maps are made available to visitors in the field, at our two Interagency Visitor Centers, five Chamber of Commerce locations, the Web, at the local motorcycle shops or by calling our office. The brochures contain tips on trail etiquette, maps with difficulty ratings, tips for driving off road, OHV safety information, emergency numbers, what to carry when going off road and information on where to find further information. (Can be view at office or Web). <a href="http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/bishop.html">http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/bishop.html</a></p> <p>Agency patrol staff is trained to identify public safety hazards and to respond to emergencies. Staff training includes first responder, ATV Rider Safety, ATV</p>		

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009  
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	<p>Rider Safety Instructor, DMV Class M (motorcycle) license and (certified) noise testing and spark arrestor identification. Additionally, enforcement rangers attend an annual mandatory training in the enforcement of 43 CFR, including OHV laws and carry the Off-Highway Vehicle Law Enforcement Information booklet published by California State Parks. (Photocopies of training and certificates are included in the application)</p> <p>Interpretive Signing on environmental ethics and OHV use can be found at the entrance portal to areas that tend to attract OHV use. These are; the Tungsten Hills, Bodie Hills, Fish slough, Volcanic Tableland, Alabama Hills, Happy Boulders, Sad Boulders and at the two Interagency Visitor Centers.</p>
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	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
<b>DIRECT EXPENSES</b>							
<b>Program Expenses</b>							
<b>1</b>	<b>Staff</b>						
	Law Enforcement Officers	2080.000	50.000	HRS	15,000.00	89,000.00	104,000.00
	Park Ranger Notes : Part time temp employee.	520.000	16.000	HRS	8,320.00	0.00	8,320.00
	Supervisor Notes : Direct Supervision.	160.000	65.000	HRS	0.00	10,400.00	10,400.00
	Other-OHV Coordinator Notes : Coordinates public meetings, purchases materials, Volunteer efforts, records and case file administration.	160.000	45.000	HRS	0.00	7,200.00	7,200.00
	<b>Total for Staff</b>				23,320.00	106,600.00	129,920.00
<b>2</b>	<b>Contracts</b>						
<b>3</b>	<b>Materials / Supplies</b>						
	Safety Equipment Notes : Misc safety equipment replacement.	1.000	700.000	MISC	700.00	0.00	700.00
<b>4</b>	<b>Equipment Use Expenses</b>						
	Vehicle Operations and Maintenance Notes : Volunteer Trail Stewards personal vehicle expense.	10000.00 0	0.310	MI	3,100.00	0.00	3,100.00
	Vehicle Operations and Maintenance	1.000	880.000	MISC	880.00	0.00	880.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009  
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	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Notes : Maintain LEOs patrol motorcycles.						
	<b>Total for Equipment Use Expenses</b>				3,980.00	0.00	3,980.00
<b>5</b>	<b>Equipment Purchases</b>						
<b>6</b>	<b>Others</b>						
<b>7</b>	<b>Administrative Costs</b>						
	Administrative Costs-Field Office Overhe Notes : The 19.4% administration costs at the national level for OHV grants have been waived. This is field office administration costs for mailings, workstations and overhead associated with the grant.	1.000	6000.000	MISC	0.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
	<b>Total Program Expenses</b>				28,000.00	112,600.00	140,600.00
	<b>TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES</b>				28,000.00	112,600.00	140,600.00
	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>				<b>28,000.00</b>	<b>112,600.00</b>	<b>140,600.00</b>

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009  
Agency: BLM - Bishop Field Office  
Application: Law Enforcement

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
<b>DIRECT EXPENSES</b>					
<b>Program Expenses</b>					
1	Staff	23,320.00	106,600.00	129,920.00	
2	Contracts	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	700.00	0.00	700.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	3,980.00	0.00	3,980.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	Administrative Costs	0.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>		28,000.00	112,600.00	140,600.00	
<b>TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES</b>		28,000.00	112,600.00	140,600.00	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>28,000.00</b>	<b>112,600.00</b>	<b>140,600.00</b>	



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**ITEM 1 and ITEM 2**

**ITEM 1**

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No  
(Please select Yes or No)

**ITEM 2**

- b. ITEM 2 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? ☒ Yes ☐ No  
(Please select Yes or No)
- c. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. ☐ Yes ☒ No  
(Please select Yes or No)
- d. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 3 – 9

**ITEM 3 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands**

The overall impact of this project to wetlands, navigable waters, and sensitive habitats is positive. Bishop Field Office's management philosophy to maintain or enhance naturally functioning ecosystems has been instrumental in mitigating negative impacts. One of the many ways this is accomplished is through law enforcement activities. Regulatory signing, visitor services patrols, brochures, community volunteers and public outreach have a constructive impact by providing public awareness of BLM's rules and regulations, and defining proper user actions and behavior. While law enforcement presence provides a deterrent to irresponsible or criminal activities that may harm the environment.

Ground disturbing deliverables are limited to regulatory signing. There are two types of signs used. One is a "Carsonite" type, named after the developer and manufacturer and is made up of a one-quarter inch fiberglass/carbon/resin material. It measures four inches wide and varies in length from four to six feet. It is placed into the ground vertically using a hand driver to pound the stake-like sign about eighteen inches below the surface. The second is a simple 4X4 wood post. These are placed into the ground by hand digging a hole about sixteen inches in diameter and about two feet deep, then back filling around the post with the material that was removed. All signs are placed in previously disturbed or barren areas. No plants or features are removed during installation and thought is given to traffic patterns around signs to avoid trampling of vegetation. Crypto-biotic soil and other sensitive areas are avoided.

**ITEM 4 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project**

The existing or potential cumulative impacts or influence of the Bishop BLM law enforcement and compliance program have been positive. Consistent OHMVR grant support provided to the Bishop BLM since the mid 1980s has been an effective tool to manage and mitigate the immediate and long term impacts and issues related to vehicle access activity in the Eastern Sierra. Negative impacts due to signing would be minimal and is also discussed in item 1 and 4. All signing within the Bishop BLM resource management area complies with BLM's nation-wide signing policy. Signs are maintained in good order and signs deemed no longer necessary are removed.

**ITEM 5 - Soil Impacts**

The possibility that the proposed law enforcement activities would have a significant effect on the environment from unusual circumstances such as steep slopes or highly erodible soil is very low. Conversely, the project seeks to prohibit activities such as motorized use on steep slopes or other sensitive habitats. In the event of unusual circumstances law enforcement personnel and volunteers report to the Bishop BLM resource staff and appropriate actions are taken.

**ITEM 6 - Damage to Scenic Resources**

The potential for impacts to scenic resources along highways is low because the Bishop BLM law enforcement program will assist in the protection of scenic values adversely affected by motorized vehicle use.

The following are the State and Federal designated scenic highways in the Bishop Field Office area. None of the view sheds from these highways will be damaged from planned OHV activities.

- 1) Hwy 89 in Mono County from 3.2 miles west of State route 395 to Alpine County line.
- 2) Hwy 168 in Inyo County from Camp Sabrina to Brockman Lane.
- 3) Hwy 395 in Inyo County from Fort Independence to Fish Springs Road.
- 4) Hwy 396 in Inyo and Mono County from So. Round Valley Road to Topaz.

Signs could be a potential risk to scenic resources. Bishop BLM takes every effort to reduce sign "pollution". Signs are placed so as to be least likely visible in the sky line. Furthermore, BLM manages many public land view sheds along County, State, and Federal roads under strict visual resource management guidelines. Refer the Bishop Resource Management Plan (1993).

#### ITEM 7 - Hazardous Materials

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

#### ITEM 8 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the potential impacts and for any substantially adverse changes in the significance of historical or cultural resources and measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the impacts.

#### ITEM 9 - Indirect Significant Impacts

This is not a new project. The activities described in this project have been put into practice over the past 15 years with none of the above illustrated impacts occurring. On the contrary, the visitor services aspect of this project reduce overall impacts region wide by making users are aware of Tread Lightly! techniques without regard to jurisdictional boundaries.

#### CEQA/NEPA Attachment

Attachments:

[Enforcement NEPA](#)